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John Latham I should like to find.) Elizabeth, m. Joseph Ambler; Benjamin, died young; Lydia, m. —— Davenport; James, m. Joanna Castle; Benjamin, m. Bethiah Weed; Ezra, m. Sarah Kellogg; Joanna, m. Stephen Warren; Elijah, m. Esther Bates.

Of this family Benjamin remained in Norwalk and had the homestead. James, in 1759, was one of a force intended to aid in the capture of Quebec, but it was too late for that service, as they received the news of its surrender while on the way and so retraced their steps. Returning leisurely towards home he passed through the town of Amenia, N. Y. He may have stopped for dinner at the tavern kept by Daniel Castle at South Amenia, and been as much attracted by the landlord's daughter as he was by the beautiful valley. At any rate they were married in the following spring, his father meantime having purchased for him a farm near at hand where they built a house and raised a family of fourteen children, all of whom married, and all but one of whom left descendants. He was miller, farmer and merchant, and successful in all; and he was also a public man in a right sense, being prominent in town affairs as well as an officer with the rank of major in the Revolutionary army.

His brother Eliakim[4] Reed moved to the same town in 1773, having purchased a farm there. His children were as follows:

Sarah, m. Matthew Fitch; Eliakim, m. Rebecca Fitch and Mrs. Breek; Simeon, m. Abial Rice; Silias, m. Bethiah Hurd; Samuel; Phineas, m. Esther Reed; Ezra, m. Jemima Fitch and Esther Edgerton; Enoch, died young, Esther, m. Jacob Edgerton; Ruth, m. Jeremiah Fuller.

Of this family Simeon, Silas and Samuel are numbered among the men from Amenia who served in the army of the revolution. Ezra bought the farm upon the death of his father, and his son Newton Reed, before mentioned, succeeded to it in turn, passing his ninety-one years there. It is now owned by Henry V. D. Reed, son of Newton, and on it have been born the ninth generation of Reeds in America.

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CAPTAIN REUBEN MARCY.

Orders to Captain Marcy from General James Wadsworth, through Colonel John Chester and Major Ripley.

BY THOMAS KNOWLTON MARCY.

WHEN a novice begins to study closely any part of Colonial or Revolutionary history he is surprised to find how few documents of the period either in print or manuscript have been preserved. Letters written home or to friends by actors in various scenes for the most part were soon lost or destroyed. Our early newspapers printed no local items on the theory that readers knew already the happenings of the neighborhood. In like manner after events had been talked over around the family fireside the household did not dream that descriptions of campaigns and battles from the absent member could have any further value.

Not so was it with Captain Reuben Marcy. He had a praiseworthy habit of carefully putting away in his desk every scrap of writing. In due time he was gathered to his fathers and the desk went to the garret to make place for more modern furniture. After long banishment it was at length restored to its ancient honor with its precious treasures intact. Here are official papers yellow with age. Here are autographs from men and women whose descendants have since become famous.

At the outbreak of the Revolution the town of Ashford, Conn., had a well equipped, well drilled military company under command of Lieut. Reuben Marcy, the leading merchant of the region. The office of captain was vacant. Near by lived a farmer who in early youth had served in three campaigns and whose soldierly qualities were well known. Thomas Knowlton was elected to the vacancy. His brilliant career proved the wisdom of the choice. After the return from the hurried march to Boston, following the Lexington alarm, Lieut. Marcy resigned. His business was large, demanding personal attention. Besides at that moment there was no lack of volunteers. Every one seemed eager to go.

A little more than three months after the evacuation of Boston by the British, March 17, 1776, Sir William Howe, with an army of 30,000 men, supported by a powerful fleet, appeared off New York harbor. Anticipating an attack at this place, General Washington put forth strenuous efforts in its defense. Heavy drafts were made on the resources of Connecticut. Seven battalions were quickly recruited for the brigade under command of Brigadier-General James Wadsworth. Capt. Reuben Marcy raised and commanded the fourth company of Col. John Chester's battalion. It consisted of seventy-four non-commissioned officers and privates. John Holmes, who died Aug. 27, was first lieutenant; Samuel Marcy, 2d lieutenant, and Daniel Knowlton, brother of Col. Thomas Knowlton, ensign. This was the second company raised in Ashford and vicinity for active

service. Nearly all the able bodied men of the town were now in the field.

The following documents, copied from the originals show the vigor with which the work was pressed.

EAST HARTFORD, June 30, 1776.

SIR:

I send you a coppy of Gen'l Wadsworths orders by express to me the one rote Last Evening the other this Sabbath Morning by which you will see the Necessity of marching with what men you

HOME OF CAPTAIN REUBEN MARCY IN ASHFORD, CONN.

can Possiblv equip & furnish by next Thursday at fartherest. Orders are as follows, viz:

DURHAM, June 29, 1776.

SIR:

In consequence of orders receivd from Gen'l Washington you are hereby directed to give the Necessary orders for expediteing the march of your Regiment in the manner heretofore orderd as soon as they can Possibly be musterd and equipt, & Direct that all your men be furnished with armes, and that none be suffered to go without as it will be impossible to procure them at Head Quarters & their service will consequently be renderd Useless.

JAMES WADSWORTH JR., Brig'r Gen'l.

To COL. JOHN CHESTER.

Another Dated

DURHAM, June 30th, Sabbath Morn, 1776.

Last evening by express I receivd another Letter from Gen'l Washington requesting in the most pressing manner not Loose one moment time in sending forward the Regiments Destind for New York. Must therefore direct that you give all Possible Attention to the Raiseing equiping and Sending forward immediately your Regiment in manner befor Directed as the safety of our army may under Heaven depend much on the seasonable arrival of the Connecticut Regiments.

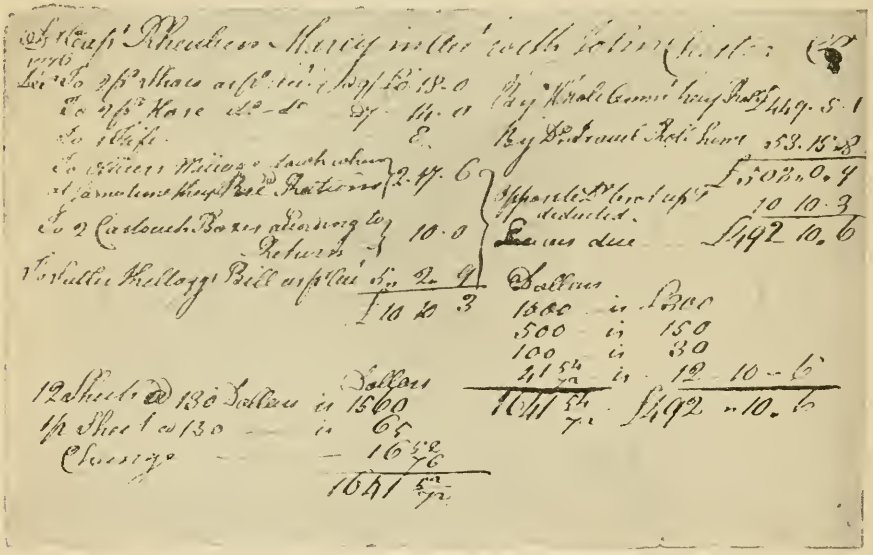
JAMES WADSWORTH, JR., Brig'r Gen'l.

These letters were sent to me from Durham by express to Wethersfield & from thence forwarded by another express to this place where I was attending the funeral of Parson Williams Lady.* I have seen the principle men here & they are engaged to stir up the people to Enlist immediately if they will not Col. Wm. & Jno. Pitkin tell me the Gov'r is Determined to draught from the Militia. I have also orderd the men here to be ready to March by next Thursday at furtherest—if they find it Difficult to get Accoutrements, Blanket and Knapsack, &c., &c.

You will send these orders to all the Captains and direct them to communicate them to all their subalterns in the four Companies Nearest you. They must give notice to the nearest muster Master to Muster them immediately—dont fail yourself of going next Thursday & Let me hear from you again. Express must be sent if Necessary.

I am in greatest haste your verry

Humble Serv't JOHN CHESTER.



†FAC-SIMILE OF ACCOUNT OF CAPT. MARCY WITH THE CONTINENTAL GOVERNMENT.

compleatly furnishd with Cloathes &c. opportunities are frequent & conveyances Cheap for Articles of Cloathing to be sent them by their friends afterwards but they must be compleatly equipt with

To Capt. Rubin Marcy Sir In persuance of the foregoing orders from Gen'l Wadsworth to Colo. Chester & fm him to Me you are hereby Ordered to March the Compy Under your Command To

*The wife of Rev. Eliphalet Williams, daughter of Rev. Elisha and Eunice (Chester) Williams. Her father was sufficiently versatile to be a clergyman, a Colonel of a regiment in active service and rector (president) of Yale College.

†This document has an added interest from the fact that Capt. Marcy was paid back for money advanced in 1776 in sheets of dollars. We do not know just the date, but as the United States did not adopt the decimal system for their money until 1786, he must have waited more than ten years for payment. The note added changing the dollars to pounds, shilling and pence and making them agree to the fraction is interesting. [*Editor.*]

New York by Land or water as you think Most Convenient there to join the Continental Army if the Whole Company is Not in Readiness you are to March as soon as you have Twenty-five Men Ready with one Commissioned & Two Non-Commissioned officers & in that proportion. And forward the Rest in Suitable divisions as fast as they become ready and To do it with all Convenient Speed. Thursday next is the Day Perfixed for Marching as you see in the foregoing orders from Colo. Chester you are to see that your Compy is well furnishd with Good armes with Bayonets & Cotoach Boxes Blankets & Knapsacks youl apply to Majr Brown who is the Nearest Muster Master To Muster your men as they become Ready.

Given Under My Hand in Windham (by order of Colonel) this 2d day of July A.D. 1776.

JOHN RIPLEY, Major.

July 3rd 1776.

Capt. Marcy please to forward the Letter to Capt. Lyon by an express this night if possible beg you will not fail as I am so Unwell & have Took physick this Day & Expect to Go to N. York Tomorrow so that I Cannot procure any body here to go besides you Live Much Nearer & I Conclude ye Expence will Be Remitted again by ye Public & am your

JOHN RIPLEY.

The story of the campaign around New York City is too well known to require repetition. Col. Chester's battalion was stationed at the Flatbush pass on Long Island, where it was attacked on August 27th, and barely escaped capture. It shared in the fight at White Plains, Oct. 28th. Its term of service expired Dec. 25, 1776.

The means, patriotism and humanity of Capt. Marcy were such that he advanced to his men and to their families full pay and for indemnity awaited the convenience of the government.

At the close of the campaign he resumed the cares of a business which demanded personal attention. His store was the chief distributing point for an area of fully sixty square miles. Imported goods for the interior were then hauled over land, mostly by oxen, from different ports. To meet the demands of his trade Capt. Marcy often had over thirty teams on the road at the same time. During the blockade he transported goods from a point as far distant as Portsmouth, N. H., though his main sources of supply were Boston, Providence and Norwich. During the Revolution he was especially kind to the families of absent soldiers. The freedom with which he gave both directly and through credits, made heavy drafts upon his fortune.

In late youth he spent four years in Providence and Boston learning in a broad way the details of mercantile business. Not only the experience thus acquired but the friendships then made proved very serviceable in later years.

Raised on a farm he was noted through life for judgment in passing on the points and value of horses and live stock. This gift proved especially useful in purchases made for the American and French armies during the Revolution.

A few articles that once belonged to Capt. Marcy are still preserved. Mrs. L. B. Loomis, of Windsor, has his watch. As it has been under water as well as under fire its virtue long ago departed. His musket that saw service in the Revolution descended through intermediate generations to the writer, who gave it two or three years ago to his youthful kinsman, a great-great grandson of Capt. Marcy, Charles Guilford Woodward, of Hartford, who rightfully inherited from

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his grandfather, the late Ashbel Woodward, M. D., a keen appreciation of antiquarian treasures.

Reuben Marcy was son of Edward,* who served as first lieutenant, 6th company, 4th regiment, Conn. troops, in the expedition against Crown Point, in 1756, and later as captain; and grandson of John Marcy, one of the pioneer settlers of Woodstock, Conn. The late Prof. Oliver Marcy, LL. D., of the Northwestern University, in a genealogical article, published in 1875, says that John, the emigrant, was son of the high sheriff of Limerick, Ireland.

Among the descendants of John are to be found in both male and female lines many persons of distinguished merit. Mention might be made of General Randolph B. Marcy, of the U. S. Army; Wm. Larned Marcy, Governor of New York, Secretary of War, 1845-9, and of State, 1853-7; of Prof. Oliver Marcy, &c., &c.

Capt. Reuben Marcy was born Nov. 28, 1732, and died January 14, 1806. He married Rachel Watson, of Barrington, R. I.

* Prof. Oliver Marcy erroneously makes Reuben the son of James.

A VISION.

BY JOHN HOWARD.

At first the face arose, then that behind
Slow issued forth my waking sense to charm.
When, having seen, my heart in glad alarm
Flowed out to meet in welcome free and kind.
For as it slow encroached upon my mind
With silent pace, I glad perceived the form
Of her, who once, with love's affection warm
My longing heart did sooth, but since most blind
Had been to all my love. Now thus she spake,—
"Dear heart, I love you," then she kneeling sued
And sobbing, begged that I the vision take
As hopeful sign, of former love renewed.
But I awoke from dreams so wondrous sweet
Another day of love denied, to greet.

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